Mrs. Ross

The Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) to aid teachers and students in keeping abreast of geography behind current news events.

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BECAUSE OF EASTER VACATION, NO BULLETINS APPEARED ON APRIL 14.

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

A SCULPTURED WARRIOR OF ANCIENT GREECE MARKS THE TOMB OF A MODERN SOLDIER

A detachment of evzones, soldiers of modern Greece (Bulletin No. 5) in medieval uniform, stands at attention before the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Athens' Constitution Square. The *fustanella*, a very full pleated skirt, is also worn by many Greek and Albanian peasants.

Bulletin No. 1, April 21, 1952

Netherlands Queen Heads Ancient House

WITH the visit of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands to the United States, two names long familiar to Americans move into the spotlight. Queen Juliana is of the House of Orange-Nassau. The Orange is for an ancient French town, the Nassau for a castle in the Rhineland.

Both names have dotted American maps for centuries. In 1614 Dutch traders built Fort Nassau near Albany, New York. The name later was given to numerous towns and counties across the United States, and an even greater number are called Orange. Wherever the Dutch have settled they have carried the name of their royal house. The Orange River forms the southern border of Orange Free State in the Union of South Africa; the Orange Mountains lie east of the Nassau range in New Guinea.

Orange and Nassau Attract Visitors

In 1544 William, son of the Count of Nassau, became Prince of Orange when he inherited the principality from a cousin. From this William, surnamed the Silent, descended the sovereigns who have ruled the Netherlands, with a few interruptions, since the middle of the 16th century.

Today, Orange, France, attracts visitors with its Roman ruins. Nassau castle still rises above the Lahn River, near Coblenz.

Queen Juliana reigns over a kingdom of some 13,000 square miles. Its area is about that of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined, and it has half again as many people, although the two New England states are among the four most densely populated of the United States.

To make room for its 10,000,000 people, the Netherlands has taken land from the sea. Approximately 30 per cent of its present land area was acquired in this way. By a remarkable feat of engineering, large areas of the Zuider Zee were reclaimed. Dikes were built from North Holland to Friesland, shutting off the Zuider Zee from the North Sea.

Windmills Give Way to Electricity

Pumps drained off the land-encircled water, leaving fertile farmlands where once fishermen hauled in nets of herring and flounder. These areas are polders. The small body of water remaining, fed by fresh streams, is called the IJsel Meer, after the near-by IJsel River.

For centuries the Netherlanders have saved their land with dikes, and progressed from hand pumping to windmills to electric pumps. The picturesque windmills, which tourists have long considered a trade-mark of the nation, now are giving way to more efficient modern machinery.

The Netherlands (often incorrectly called Holland from two coastal provinces) suffered great destruction by the invading Germans during World War II. The dikes of the Wieringermeer polder were blasted, and 50,000 acres laboriously retrieved from the Zuider Zee were inundated. So industrious and enterprising are the Netherlanders, however, that a year after the liberation, crops were growing on the rescued farms.

Tulips are the country's most spectacular crop. Some 16,000 acres

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 27, 1943, POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879.
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NETHERLANDS INFORMATION SERVICE

A STEADY STREAM OF BICYCLES FLOWS ALONG A BROAD STREET IN THE HAGUE

All over the Netherlands (Bulletin No. 1), bicycles are a popular form of transit. Riders of all ages and classes roll along city streets and country lanes. On this tree-lined avenue in The Hague, bicycles far outnumber automobiles. Although Amsterdam has been the capital since 1806 when Napoleon's brother, Louis Bonaparte, as "King of Holland," named it so, The Hague also rates a star on the map. Parliament meets there and the city is still considered the royal residence. The Queen, however, prefers to live in her country palace at Soestdijk, near Hilversum.

Versatile Chicago to Become Political Host

CHICAGO'S 3,621,000 citizens will open wide their doors of hospitality this summer to both the Republicans and the Democrats. This second-largest American city boasts many activities besides entertaining politicians. Chicago is the world's greatest railroad center, the greatest grain market, and the largest meat-packing city.

Possibly Indians of the Ojibway tribe gave Chicago its name—*she-kag-ong*—meaning "wild onion place." The Chicago and Calumet rivers join here to form a good natural harbor, one of the very few on Lake Michigan. Early French explorers found the Indians using the Chicago River to reach the Mississippi. Indians showed Marquette and Joliet both these rivers when they explored the region in 1673.

Once Tried to Keep Railroads Out

By 1804 settlers had built a crude stockade on the swampy plain between the Chicago and Calumet rivers. They called it Fort Dearborn. In less than a century the small settlement grew to become the fourth-largest American city. This strategically located settlement early became an excellent port connecting busy lake traffic with that of the bustling Mississippi and its tributaries.

Chicago became more important as railroads formed an ever-tighter steel network across the country. In the beginning the city actually tried to keep the railroads out. Once the Illinois Central had to come in to Chicago on miles of trestle built out into the lake. Today, throughout each 24 hours, passenger trains enter and leave Chicago faster than one a minute. Every five minutes three freight trains come and go. Thirty-nine different railroad lines, 16 air lines, and many shipping companies serve Chicago.

Railroad building carried grain to Chicago. Grain, in turn, brought an even bigger industry, slaughtering and meat packing. More than a fourth of the livestock destined for American markets comes to Illinois. The Union Stockyards and the Livestock Exchange cover a square mile of pens and packing houses in downtown Chicago. Here, once each second, a live hog vanishes in one entrance of a slaughterhouse and soon emerges from another, unrecognizable and ready to eat.

A Popular Political Host

Both the 1952 presidential nominating conventions will convene at Chicago in July, to round out a century of Democratic-Republican rivalry. Of the 50 such gatherings during this period, Chicago has acted as host to 21. On three previous occasions both national parties have met in this city—in 1884, 1932, and 1944. In each of these years the November presidential victor was the Democrat. Once again, in 1952, Chicago will nominate both winner and loser. Windy City choices have fared well. Five of seven Chicago-nominated Democrats have been winners. Seven of nine Republicans nominated in Chicago, in years when the Democrats convened elsewhere, carried the country in November.

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are set out to bulb flowers, over 3,000 to other types, and 180,000 to market gardens. Most of the flower fields occupy the rich lowlands between Amsterdam, capital and largest city (828,000), and The Hague ('s Gravenhage), seat of government (illustration, inside cover).

Dairying is one of the country's foremost occupations. On polders in Friesland and Groningen provinces graze thousands of cattle and sheep. Forty per cent of the farmlands are given over to dairy farms and butter and cheese form a sizable portion of the Netherlands' exports.

Groningen factories process wallboard from local straw and starch from potatoes. The Netherlands also is noted for bells. The Netherlanders are giving a carillon of these to the United States. A replica of it was molded for Queen Juliana to present on her visit to Washington.

In Drente province, just south of Groningen, oil wells pour out enough fuel to supply a quarter of the country's needs. Coal is mined in the tiny province of Limburg, wedged between Belgium and Germany in the extreme southeast corner of the Netherlands.

NOTE: The Netherlands appears on the National Geographic Society's map of Western Europe. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for price list of maps.

For further information see "Mid-Century Holland Builds Her Future," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1950; "Mending Dikes in the Netherlands" (20 photographs), December, 1947; and "Behind Netherlands Sea Ramparts," February, 1940. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; and $2.00, 1912-1929. Earlier issues, when still in print, varied prices.)*

A.B.C. PRESS, MAGNUM

IN THE WOOD-SCARCE NETHERLANDS, CONCRETE BLOCKS FORM ROW HOUSES AT EINDHOVEN

All over the land trim little dwellings like these are relieving the housing shortage resulting from expanding population and war destruction. The population has doubled in the past 50 years.

Bulletin No. 3, April 21, 1952

Eritreans Vote for First Time in History

LAST week, the people of Eritrea voted for the first time in history. A former Italian colony about one half the size and population of South Carolina, Eritrea lies on the Red Sea coast of Africa, just north of Ethiopia. The United Nations has decreed that Eritrea be federated with Ethiopia by September 15, 1952. Eritrean tribesmen, many of them illiterate, cast their ballots to elect a 68-member assembly which, in turn, will vote on a constitution uniting their country with Ethiopia.

Shortly before the momentous election day, the Eritreans were hosts to Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, Editor of *The National Geographic Magazine.* Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Grosvenor visited Asmara, the capital, while on a three-month safari through Africa. According to a recent letter home, the widely traveled couple was pleasantly surprised at the "almost cold" weather at Asmara, only 40 miles from the torrid Red Sea.

Grosvenors Amazed at East African Terrain

In flying north from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, to Asmara, the Grosvenors were amazed at "the Rift Valley with its innumerable extinct volcanoes." The Rift Valley, squeezed between two abrupt escarpments, or cliffs, cuts a great gash across eastern Africa. To the west rises Ras Dashan, 15,160 feet high, and other "naked, barren, ugly-looking mountains." Asmara, which means "good pasture place," stands in the midst of a fertile region on the edge of the Hamasen plateau, near the rift escarpment which drops to the steamy coastal plain.

In a drive through the near-by hills, the Grosvenors noted the twisting narrow-gauge railroad the Italians built in 1912, connecting Asmara with the seaport, Massaua, 40 air miles away. In 75 tortuous miles the line pierces the rugged mountains with 37 tunnels, and drops 7,765 feet.

Flowers and plants around Asmara attracted Mrs. Grosvenor. "There are many beautiful gardens filled with cacti, flowering trees, and shrubs. The prickly pear grows all up and down the mountain side."

In recent years reforestation and contour planting have improved the economy of Eritrea. The ingenious contour system cultivates whole mountain sides by means of strip gardens, Mrs. Grosvenor reported. "Small plots are planted crosswise instead of vertically on the hillside with a windbreak around each plot. The weeding, hoeing, and water gradually build up a natural shelf without the trouble of stonework." Through this and other agricultural improvements, much more food can be raised now than formerly.

Italians Came in 1870

The Romans of ancient times knew this part of the world. In 1890 the Italian Government christened its new colony Eritrea in remembrance of the *Mare Erythraeum* or Erythrean Sea—the old Roman name for near-by waters.

What is now Eritrea began in 1870 when an Italian steamship company bought a small harbor (now Massaua) from a local ruler. An Italian

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Late in 1951, the two parties decided that the big International Amphitheater at the Chicago Stock Yards was the most advantageous place for their conventions. Republicans will meet there July 7, followed by Democrats July 21. The International Amphitheater was built in 1934 to house the annual International Live Stock Expositions. It serves also for Chicago's Automobile Show and other large trade exhibits. The building's main arena covers two thirds of an acre. Seats at convention time will accommodate close to 20,000 of each party's faithful.

NOTE: Chicago is shown on the Society's map of the North Central United States.

For further information, see "Mapping the Nation's Breadbasket," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1948; "By Car and Steamer Around Our Inland Seas," April, 1934; and "Illinois, Crossroads of the Continent" and "Chicago, Titan of the Middle West" (12 color photographs), May, 1931.

ACME

PRIZE HEREFORD BULL SHOWS OFF IN THE CHICAGO ARENA WHERE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WILL BE CHOSEN THIS JULY

The International Live Stock Exposition is held annually in Chicago's International Amphitheater. This year the immense hall will house both the Republican and Democratic nominating conventions.

"Everyday Life in Ancient Times"

A new book compiled by the National Geographic Society brings to life the peoples of the ancient lands where Western civilization originated—Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Illustrated with 120 full-color paintings by H. M. Herget and written by four noted authorities, the 356-page volume is available to schools at $5.00 a copy postpaid in the United States and its possessions, and $5.25 abroad.

Record Rains Have Deluged Many Lands

HISTORY's heaviest rains have not always occurred in countries famous for monsoons, in tropical jungles, or in hurricane-swept islands. Record deluges have frequently drenched the United States.

On June 22, 1947, President Truman's home state, Missouri, gained a place near the top of the list of the wettest places in the world. During that day, in the space of 42 minutes, one foot of rain fell on the little town of Holt, Missouri.

Town in India Holds Record for Continuous Rainfall

The rainiest single minute in the knowledge of the United States Weather Bureau ticked by in Opid's Camp, California, on April 5, 1926. Almost two thirds of an inch of water fell in those 60 seconds on this small resort settlement and Los Angeles flood-control station north of Pasadena in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Cherrapunji, in India's Assam province, holds all world records for continuous heavy rainfall over periods ranging from four days to two years. Through 1860 and 1861, a total of 133 feet nine inches of rain poured from the sky there. In July of 1861 alone, more than 30 feet fell. For one year, ending with that July, the total fall was 86.75 feet—more than the average depth of the Mississippi River at New Orleans.

A town in Texas (illustration, next page) named Thrall has had a more intense short-term downpour even than that. On September 9, 1921, an 18-hour storm brought down a record 36.4 inches of rain—three solid feet. Smethport, Pennsylvania, almost bettered that mark. On July 18, 1942, 30.8 inches of rain fell in only four and a half hours.

Other cloudbursts in the United States which have set Weather Bureau records include a rain of nine and a quarter inches in 40 minutes at Guinea, Virginia, on August 24, 1906; 19 inches in two hours and 10 minutes at Rockport, West Virginia, on July 18, 1889; and 22 inches in two hours and 45 minutes near D'Hanis, Texas, on May 31, 1935.

Baguio, P.I., Holds One-day Record

On the island of Jamaica in the British West Indies, Silver Hill Plantation was drenched in November, 1909, by 57.5 inches of rain in two days, 122.5 inches in six days, and 135 inches in eight days. This two-day record was bettered in 1913 when a July rain hit Funkiko, Formosa, with a torrent which added up to 65.79 inches.

Baguio, in the mountains of Luzon north of Manila in the Philippines, holds the one-day rainfall record: 45.99 inches. During the same storm, in July, 1911, a total of 87.01 inches—more than seven feet—fell in three days and 15 hours.

Rainstorms shorter but even harder have poured down on such widely separated spots as Porto Bello, Panama, where 2.48 inches fell in five minutes on November 29, 1911; Fussen, Germany, deluged with 4.96 inches in eight minutes on May 25, 1920; Plumb Point, Jamaica, British West Indies, which experienced a downpour of 7.8 inches in 15 minutes on

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garrison landed in 1879. With the organization of Eritrea in 1890 began a half-century of Italian colonial rule. During World War II, the British seized and administered the colony.

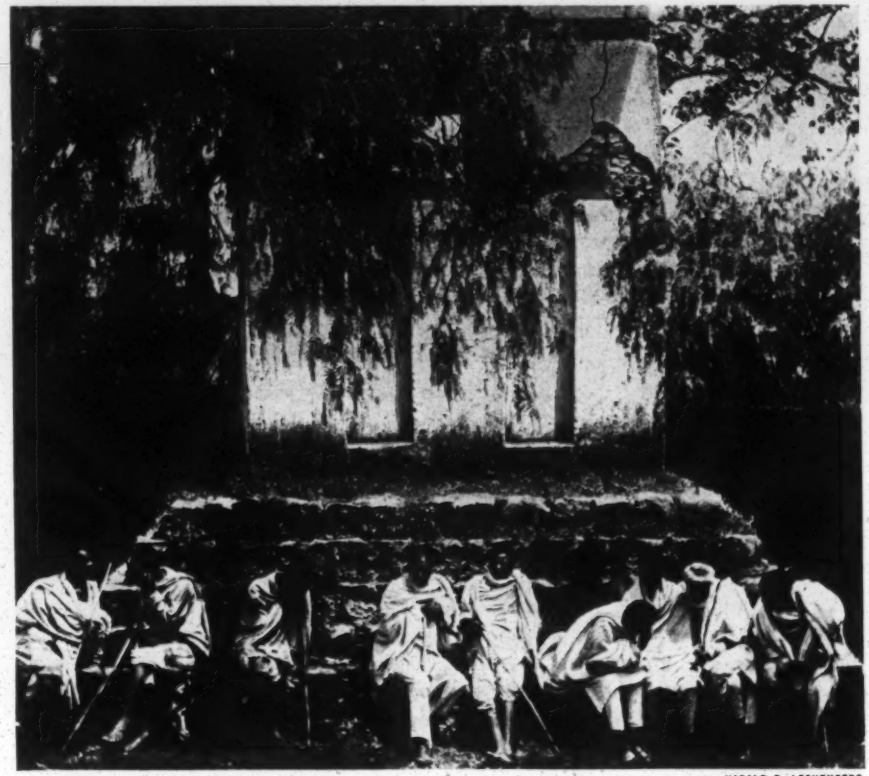
Various races call Eritrea home. Ethiopian Hamites are a dark-skinned people with finely chiseled features. Arabs live near the coast. They invaded the land as conquerors and traders centuries ago. Recently traders from India have largely taken their place. Negroes have migrated to Eritrea from all parts of Africa.

Many Arabs specialize in fishing, particularly for sharks. Sun-dried shark meat is shipped to Zanzibar as a delicacy.

But salt has been the backbone of the country's economy. Behind Massaua's harbor stretch broad flats. There the Eritreans built evaporating basins and put the blazing sun to work drying brine to make salt. In the wide flat basins almost 2,000,000 gallons of sea water evaporate in a single day. Before the war Japan took most of Eritrea's salt.

NOTE: Eritrea may be located on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information on Eritrea, see "With the Italians in Eritrea," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September, 1935.



HARALD P. LECHENPERG

ERITREANS PAUSE TO REST AND RELAX BY THE BELL TOWER OF A COPTIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Villagers pass the time of day on the steps of an ancient bell tower in a luxuriant grove of trees. Behind the wall stands the church, circular in structure and completely separate. It is used only by priests, officials, and upper-class natives. About half the Eritreans are members of the Coptic Church—one of the oldest Christian sects. The other half are Mohammedans.

Bulletin No. 5, April 21, 1952

Greece Gives NATO a Balkan Bastion

WHEN Greece and Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization last month, the defense line of the western powers was extended to the easternmost shores of the Mediterranean. The addition of the two nations to NATO brings to 14 the members of this "all for one and one for all" defense group.

From the Balkan Peninsula of southeastern Europe, Greece extends in a fringe of peninsulas and a spatter of outlying islands into the Mediterranean between the sole of Italy's boot and the western shore of Turkey. It is a little larger than the State of Alabama.

Rugged Terrain Limits Farmlands

The deep indentations of its coast give Greece many good natural harbors. From prehistoric times the Greeks have been a seafaring people —traders and fishermen. But their chief livelihood is from the soil.

Rugged mountains and rocky barrens cover four fifths of the country, leaving only about one fifth suitable for cultivation. About 65 per cent of the estimated (1949) population of 7,960,000 people live from agriculture or occupations connected with it.

The Greek farmer usually owns his land but each holding contains only a few acres. Often these are divided into small strips, widely separated to give everyone a fair share of the limited fertile areas. The result, however, is to make a laborious existence even more difficult. Most farmers live in the villages from which they go from one to another of their scattered fields, wasting time and energy.

Practically the only level areas are in Thessaly, that region of mainland Greece north of Athens (Athínai), between the Pindus Mountains and the Aegean; Macedonia, north, along the Yugoslav border; and Thrace, extending eastward along the Aegean to the Turkish frontier.

Fields of grain, acres of hardy grape vines, and plum and apple orchards stripe the land. Cotton and rice vary the crop output. Eastward from Salonika (Thessaloníki)—Greece's second city—along the Aegean, grows the "Turkish" tobacco used extensively in American cigarettes—so called from the period when Turkey ruled Greece.

Corinth Canal Made Peloponnesus an Island

Northwestern Greece is a wild region of rugged mountains. There nomadic shepherds still tend sheep and goats and have little contact with the world outside. A military highway cuts through the Pindus Mountains northwestward into Albania, but the railway extends only to Kalabáka, about midway between Greece's east and west coasts.

Off the southern coast lies the Peloponnesus, shaped like a three-fingered hand and more than 8,000 square miles in area. Once a peninsula, it was transformed into an island when the Corinth Canal was slashed across the four-mile isthmus connecting it with the mainland.

In the mild Mediterranean climate of the Peloponnesus, olives, currants, and grapes share the farmlands with wheat. Many of the farmers still use the primitive implements of their ancestors.

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May 12, 1916; and Curtea-de-Arges, Romania, where 8.1 inches of rain fell in 20 minutes on July 7, 1889.

Basseterre, on the island of St. Kitts in the British West Indies, received 23 inches of rain in four hours on January 12, 1880.

But the ideal location for an umbrella and raincoat merchant is still Cherrapunji, in India's mountainous northeastern corner. On four days in June, 1876, the town was drowned under 101.84 inches. Half a century later, in 1931, a week of rain submerged Cherrapunji with 131.15 inches.

NOTE: Areas mentioned in the bulletin may be located on the Society's World Map.

For additional information on storms and weather, see "Men Against the Hurricane," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1950; "Americans Stand Guard in Greenland," October, 1946; "New Frontier in the Sky," September, 1946; and "Weather Fights and Works for Man," December, 1943.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 17, 1952, "Weather Prophets Forecast 30 Days Ahead."

JOHN VACHON

RAIN CLOUDS BLACKEN THE SKY ABOVE A TEXAS RANCH, RELEASING WELCOME SHOWERS

Spring rains mildly sprinkle the fields of this ranch, a few miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. Rainfall in the giant State of Texas is as varied as its temperatures. Hurricanes sometimes lash the Gulf coast. In the arid western section little rain falls, while Thrall and D'Hanis, in the south central part of the state, have established rainfall records that, for short periods, compare with the downpours that drench Cherrapunji in the mountains of Assam.

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The Germans systematically destroyed the railroads when they fled Greece in 1944. Part of the lines have been rebuilt with American aid, but transportation is still a problem. Small coastal vessels carry freight from port to port and through the islands as they have since Biblical times when St. Paul sailed these waters. Most modern *caiques* have engines.

Athens, the capital, is one of the world's oldest cities. However, a large section is today quite modern. From the Acropolis, the limestone hill on which the earliest inhabitants settled, the classic Parthenon looks down on the maze of narrow streets that are a relic of the Turks, and the broad avenues, squares (illustration, cover), parks, and modern buildings of recent years.

The Parthenon, built in the fifth century B.C. as a pagan temple, has been a silent witness of the rise and fall of empires which changed Greece from ruler of the civilized world to a small modern kingdom whose position in the eastern Mediterranean still gives it world importance.

Athens, with its suburbs and port (Piraeus), is the largest city of the eastern Mediterranean. Its 1,124,000 people comprise nearly a seventh of Greece's entire population.

Greece's expanding industries are concentrated in the vicinity of Athens. Textiles, soap, olive oil, cement, and cigarettes are being produced in increasing quantities. The country's exports include sponges, wine, cheese, figs, and currants.

NOTE: Greece is shown on the Society's map of Europe and the Near East.

For further information, see "War-torn Greece Looks Ahead," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1949; "Erosion, Trojan Horse of Greece," December, 1947; "The Greek Way," March, 1944; "Classic Greece Merges Into 1941 News," January, 1941; and "Modern Odyssey in Classic Lands," March, 1940.

COSTA EMMANUEL FROM UNRRA

TO THIS SMILING GREEK FARM GIRL, A FOUR-FAGOT LOAD FOR THE FIRE IS A TREASURE

Greece's scanty woodlands furnish little fuel for village cook stoves. Children scour the fields for every twig and branch they can bring home to heat the cottage and cook the meals.